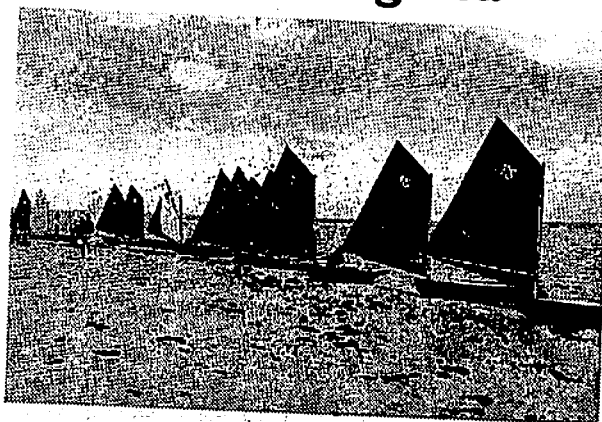


Boating

Duxbury Clipper, Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Melonseeds Join in Annual Regatta



More than 20 Melonseeds—13 -foot-long single-sail skiffs—gathered in Eagle's Nest cove for the 4th Annual Summer Solstice Regatta last weekend.

Roger Crawford of Marshfield, began building the cat-rigged boats in 1989.

Since then, he's built more than 150 and sold them to people in 27 states.

Those in the regatta sailed Friday night with calume light sticks attached to the sprits at the top of their sails.

"It was quite a sight to see those lights bobbing around out there, heading for the Powder Point Bridge," said *Clipper* photographer Fran Nichols, whose Eagle's Nest home served as regatta headquarters.

The Melonseed gets its name from its shape—it looks like a watermelon seed. Most Melonseed sails are a deep watermelon red.

While the original 19th century Melonseeds were made of wood, Crawford make them of fiberglass with teak woodwork.

After their Friday night sail at the end of the year's longest day, the Melonheads, as the boat owners call themselves, sailed in the cove or on the bay at mid-day Saturday, stopping on a beach for a picnic lunch.

That night they took a sunset dinner cruise on a Captain John boat out of Plymouth.